

C. H. S.

# BANDWAGON

1956, Vol. 6—SEPTEMBER

25c



(Photo courtesy Fred Pfening, Jr.)

BEN E. WALLACE

See page 4

— The Circusiana Magazine —

# CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1939

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lisher.

## The Editor Says

To quote the "Peru Tribune", it was a "Peach of a Convention." The spirit was wonderful. I think that there were several factors that made the attendance so high—the main one was the fact that the town of Peru is one of great interest to circus lovers, and there is much lore to be seen, heard and indulged in. A small town and a small hotel where the conventioners can put it up and take it down makes for congeniality. Added to this the fact that the citizens of Peru themselves went all out, I think we should go back to Peru real soon.

There were quite a few newer members at Peru, and I think they enjoyed it more than some of the old timers. It's so wonderful to find someone to talk with that knows your circus language.

A twenty-five per cent membership attendance certainly must be a record of some sort. I am sure that the officers were inspired by all of this.

## ATTENTION!

Due to the vagaries of the United States Mail the fine Convention pictures that we had hoped to get into this issue of the Bandwagon were received too late to be used. They will be incorporated into a brochure which you will receive before the next Bandwagon. This is not to be considered a Bandwagon edition.



## Convention Highlights

The Circus Historical Society returned to the site of their first convention to hold the most successful convention in their history. The Bearss Hotel in Peru, Indiana, was headquarters for the event which was held August 10, 11 and 12.

Eighty-four people attended the banquet, of which 46 were members of the organization, which gave a high percentage of attendance.

Friday morning was given over to registration. Friday afternoon members and guests were taken on tours of the city and surroundings by the Peru Jaycees. The Jaycees and other citizens of Peru went all out to make this a successful affair. At 1:00 a wagon tour was taken throughout the downtown section with the homes of Jerry Mugavin, Bert Bowers, and Ben Wallace being pointed out. Then a bus trip was taken. The site of the old Wallace quarters was viewed, and the present owner explained what the buildings were used for then and now. Then the bus took members to the Paul Kelley farm where they saw the elephants, lions, wagons, etc., that are kept there.

On Friday evening, in a parlor at the Hotel, movies were shown by Bill Lerche of Bellevue, Ohio. These included some of the circuses that are out today as well as some in the past.

Saturday morning, the conventioners were the guests of F. C. Fisher, a member, at his farm north of the city. There the F. C. Fisher and Son Circus was set up for the enjoyment of the visitors. Coffee, doughnuts and rolls were served in the cookhouse. In another tent scrapbooks and old Billboards were displayed. Visitors took pictures of wagons, etc., and enjoyed being photographed on a horse. Phyllis Fisher entertained us with a single trap act, and worked a pony and dogs.

The business meeting was held at the Hotel at 2 o'clock. After routine business was disposed of a spirited discussion was held on what should be published in the Bandwagon, official organ of the Society, and what could be done to improve the magazine. Bette Leonard, the President, also asked for suggestions as to a site for the 1957 Convention. Suggestions were made of various locations in the Midwest, most members being from that part of the country.

Saturday afternoon, a memorial service was held at the grave of "Babe", beloved old elephant, who had died a few days previously at the Kelley farm. Bette Leonard placed flowers on his grave, and Rev. Arthur Isenberg and Dr. Chester Hoyt took charge of the service.

As always, the highpoint of the Convention is the Banquet. This was held Saturday evening, at the Elks Club. At this time a key to the city was presented to the President, Bette Leonard, and the "Jaycee Pink Elephant Insignia" was given to Robert C. King, Convention Chairman. Ann King, Richmond, Indiana, accompanied by Mrs. Melvin Olsen of Indianapolis, Indiana, sang several numbers and lead in group singing. R. G. "Whitey" White of Richmond, Indiana, also sang. Movies were shown by Paul Rusk, of Charleston, West Virginia, and Don Smith of Detroit, Michigan, and others. Mr. Rusk included in his movies views of the Arter Bros. Circus 1955 per-



formance. This circus was started and inspired by John Arter, a member of the Circus Historical Society.

At 11:00 A.M. on Sunday morning, memorial services were held at Mount Hope Cemetery at the grave of Ben Wallace. These services were conducted by Rev. Arthur Isenberg, chaplain of C.H.S., assisted by H. Chester Hoyt, of Sarasota, Florida. A fitting tribute had been prepared by the chaplain who also honored other circus folk buried in Peru, as well as C.H.S. members who has passed away since the last convention.

This officially ended the convention, but many members were still taking it up and tearing it down late Sunday evening. Many again visited the Paul Kelley farm to hear a calliope played by Harry Schell, of Farmington, Missouri.

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## Outstanding Peru Men of the Last Half Century

(Article courtesy of Fred Pfening)

### **B. E. WALLACE WAS A SOLDIER, BANKER AND CIRCUS KING**

B. E. Wallace was truly a giant of the century. In everything he aimed to excel. He was born in Miami County, October 14, 1847. He moved to Peru in 1863, and entered the army in 1865 as a member of the 13th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. After his discharge, he opened a livery stable in Peru. In the fall of 1885 he boarded a dog and pony show which was not able to pay its bill so Wallace got into the circus business. He opened his first show at Denver in 1884. From this modest beginning, through careful policies, progressive methods, and constant effort to give the public the best possible entertainment, he grew in popular favor and patronage until he developed the great circuses which bore his name. The quartering of his circuses in Peru developed other enterprises and was a chief source of cash income for the farmers of the county. He successively won fame for Peru's finest home; Peru's largest bank; Peru's largest department store; and as Miami County's largest land owner.

In War I he was too old to enlist but he put his fortune behind the sale of Liberty Bonds. His speech at the first bond meeting in the Wallace theater was "Let everyone buy until it hurts, and I will match every bond bought." That cost him \$43,000 that night and he kept up this policy all during the war. Circus life broadens a man's sympathies and provides many opportunities to play the good samaritan. Hundreds of men were helped by him and the tales of his kindness can never be fully told. Jerry Mugivan, his successor owed much to him. Fred Senger ultimately obtained ownership of Peru's biggest store, which is a monument to Wallace's helping hand, as well as to Senger's merchandising ability. Wallace's only inheritance was his Scotch ancestry. From the humblest beginning he rose to a position of great power and affluence; all of which he acquired by native ability and hard work.

Every state in the union knew about Peru because it was the home of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. He was Peru's biggest booster and greatest advertiser, and one of the ten men who contributed most to Peru in the last fifty years.

(Peru, Ind. Daily Tribune, Issue December 27, 1949)



# With The Greatest Show On Earth

(OLEANDER'S SIXTH LETTER)

By John G. Quinius

Written in 1900 by John G. Quinius. Furnished the Band Wagon by his son Herman M. Quinius, CFA of Bette Leonard Tent, Wichita, Kansas. Please note these stories were written and published for childrens entertainment over 55 years ago.

I'm writing from Detroit, Michigan, where blow the chilly blasts in winter and the cooling breezes in the "good old summer time." It is the city also, from which are sent out each year great quantities of vegetable and flower seeds. I stated in my last letter that I would write about our trained animals and I'm going to keep my promise. I'm just going to tell you about the wonderful things they can do, not how they are trained—for a big stick and a chair, and chains and ropes and fear have such a prominent place in this part of their education, that a description of the methods commonly used would not make pleasant reading for tender-hearted persons such as I know you to be. Do not think for a moment, however, that they are not properly cared for, for all animals traveling with menageries or shows receive the very best of care and the very best of food, but when they are being trained, the lesson of obedience is the very first lesson they are compelled to learn, and there seems to be nothing that teaches them this more rapidly, nor impresses it upon their minds more clearly than a sharp tap on the nose with a big hickory training-stick. I'm sure it doesn't feel good, but it certainly brings about results. The "spare the rod and spoil the child" theory seems to be believed in most thoroughly by all wild-animal trainers, at least all that I have ever known or heard of use this method with gratifying success. Some of you, I know, are wondering what a chair has to do with the training of animals. Well, I'll tell you, it's the "life-saver." If it wasn't for the chair, a lion, leopard, or tiger trainer might as well bid all his friends a last good-by, before entering for the first time and for the first lesson one of the cages. Without the chair he would never get out alive. Quick as a flash he enters and the door of the cage flies shut behind him. Quicker than a flash the big spotted or striped tiger or yellow lion is ready for the spring and leap which always follow. As he leaps, the chair is thrown out to meet him, and instead of landing on the trainer, his head lands between the four legs of the chair and his paws claw the air on each side of the man he intended killing. Before he recovers from his surprise he gets a whack on his nose with the hickory training-stick, one that makes such an impression on his mind that he rarely forgets it. If one tap doesn't send him back to his corner, a second one will, and he rarely dares to try another flying leap when the trainer faces him, and why? Just because he is afraid that the trainer has about him another chair and hickory stick. But I'll write about the time when the lessons are all learned and about the things that are done. I'll write about the elephants first. They seem to consider their performance as going to school, and every one of them would like to play "hookey" if they could. They would like to bolt out of the ring and get back to where the people had been feeding them peanuts and cakes. You will notice, therefore, that after they have



lined into the ring, single file, and holding each other's tails, two or three of their keepers will take their place at the entrance to ring, armed with driving-hooks, and ready to fasten them into the trunk of any who make the attempt to run back into the other tent, there to enjoy the finishing of their daily meal, which, by the way, consists of about two bushels of oats and about one-fifth of a ton of hay each day. Their performance in the ring consists in marching by twos and single file, standing on their hind legs, and occasionally on their front feet with head to ground and body in the air, balancing on tubs, pyramid-building in groups, sitting in large chairs, ringing bells, and beating drums. The smallest of the herd is always used as the clown elephant and is ever present to amuse the children, and the grown folks too. I'm thinking. I won't write much about the snake-charmers, for snakes are really not trained, and little danger is connected with their handling, except that the charmer must be careful to keep them from coiling tightly about the upper part of the body and that their tail does not get a chance to coil about a post. Most of them need the tail grip to get power enough for the coil that crushes and kills. Next come the cat tribe, the lions, leopards, tigers, jaguars. These are trained but never tamed, and it is only because they do not realize their powers, that keeps them from jumping for the throat of the trainer the moment he enters the cage or arena. They, of course, jump easiest from the ground and it is for this reason that most of them are at once made to get up on pedestals from which it is not easy for them to leap, and thus lessening the danger for the trainer. I'm writing now of the performance in the large arena. The performance in the cage with two or three lions or tigers does not allow of the use of pedestals and is not near as dangerous anyway, because the trainer is always within easy reach of the door and safety; but it is different in the arena, for there is no way of rapid escape, and it is bravery and fearlessness and nerve and patience that carries the trainer through safely. By far the greatest act now shown is the grouping in a pyramid of twenty-seven full-grown lions. This is done by Captain Bonavito, who also has a group of twelve called the "Old Arm Chair," in which Bonavito is seated in a large arm-chair with the twelve lions clustered about him. Bostock has an act in which eight lions take part. Herman Wheedon has a mixed group in a wonderful act of posing, and perhaps the very hardest group to handle, and keep in proper bounds, because animals of many different kinds are naturally antagonistic on account of their different natures and various likes and dislikes. Charles Miller makes three Royal Bengal tigers pose as the "three graces," and do a number of other graceful things. Among women trainers LaBelle Selica and Madam Norvelli are leading figures and as brave and fearless as the men. The finest act I've ever seen bears perform is the one called the Polar act, the figure being formed by five huge Polar bears. The bears are taught to do a number of mirth-provoking acts, and it seems easy for them to balance themselves on a ball, stand on their head, or turn a somersault. Hey! oh my! I hear the "bell a ringing," and the cry of, "all lights out." I'll just have time to write that all trainers must be good men or women, and lead a moral and an upright life. Only in this way can they hope to keep their nerve and force and the upper hand of their animals. The moment they begin to drink or stray in any way from the good and straight and narrow path, the animals seem to know it, and it is only a question of time and waiting for the chance to make a fatal leap, which always means death to the trainer.



## The Origin of the Barnum and Bailey Circus

By Dr. E. J. Bateman

P. T. Barnum first entered the circus business as ticket seller, secretary, and treasurer of Aaron Turner's show at the magnificent salary of thirty dollars a month and twenty per-cent of the show's profits. The year was 1836, and the connection lasted but a few months, when he started out with a small caravan of his own. His performing personnel consisted of an Italian juggler, a negro singer, and a few musicians. The show was given in a small tent and a few horses hauled it about the backwoods areas of the south. It was modestly billed as "Barnum's Grand Scientific and Musical Theater." Business was generally bad and he closed, reorganized, and finally closed for good.

In 1851 Barnum returned to the circus business in partnership with Seth B. Howes and Sherwood Stratton, the father of Tom Thumb. This show was known as Barnum's Great Asiatic Caravan, Museum, and Menagerie. This outfit carried 10 elephants, some of which were captured and some purchased by their own expedition to Siam. It toured profitably for four years and then was sold. The purchasers are not known, but the various elements of which it was composed probably found their way to several of the small circuses then touring the eastern countryside.

From 1854 to 1870 the record is quite confused. "Barnum's Colossal Museum and Menagerie" was on the road in summer and exhibited in Barnum's Museum in the winter from 1852 to 1859. "Barnum's Traveling World's Fair" toured from 1860 to 1876. Barnum certainly had an interest in the first of these, the second may have represented merely a leasing of his magic name.

The real beginning of the Barnum and Bailey Greatest Show on Earth as those of us who were living in the early years of the present century remember it occurred in 1871. In that year W. C. Coup induced Barnum to back and lend his name to a show that from the start was the largest in the country—due entirely to the ability and inventive genius of Coup and at times in spite of Barnum. They travelled the roads for two years, sometimes giving a parade and three performances a day, and then went on the rails on its own specially made railroad cars. W. C. Coup was the inventor of everything which made the railroad show possible—the inclined planes or "runs", the iron plates between the flat cars, the method of snubbing the heavy wagons down the runs, and the king-pole. After four years Coup had all of Barnum that he could stand and he dropped out of the partnership and started a show of his own. The Barnum show staggered along for a short time, going steadily downhill under Barnum's management, until the Flatfoots bought into it and assumed the active management. They improved the property, prosperity returned, and this was the status quo until James Anthony Bailey and the famous baby elephant appeared on the scene in 1880.



James A. Bailey, born McGinness, first appears in an executive capacity with a circus as half owner of the concert privilege on the circus of Hemmings, Cooper, and Whitby, listed as touring only in 1868, according to one listing, but also in 1869 and 1870 according to Gil Robinson. Whitby was murdered at his own front door in 1870, and Hemmings and Cooper are listed in 1871 and James Cooper 1872 to 1876. About then Bailey bought into the show and apparently assumed the active management, for he took it on a very profitable tour of Australia, New Zealand, Java, and South America, lasting two years. Cooper and Bailey toured the eastern United States in 1880. During that year a baby elephant was born on the show, the first in the United States. Barnum telegraphed an offer of \$100,000 for the baby, and Cooper and Bailey not only refused to sell, but plastered copies of Barnum's telegram on every bill-board along their route. This somehow amused Barnum as well as baffled him and he was shrewd enough to adopt the practice later made famous by politicians—"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!" He therefore began negotiations which resulted in his buying out Cooper and Bailey (who by then had acquired the "Howe's Great London" title). Cooper took his money and retired, and the next year "P. T. Barnum and Great London Combined Shows" took to the rails, the ownership being a triple partnership between Barnum, Bailey, and Fred Hutchinson, the last named being a protege of Barnum. He soon dropped out and Bailey was Barnum's silent partner, but active manager. They used the Barnum and London title through the seasons of 1881 and 1882. In 1883 it was called P. T. Barnum's Hippodrome, Circus, and Menagerie. In 1884 it became "P. T. Barnum's Greatest Show On Earth," and remained so through the season of 1888. Bailey, like Coup, became disgusted with trying to get along with Barnum, and quit in 1886. W. W. Cole took his place for two years and also gave up. Barnum capitulated and in 1888 he lured Bailey back by giving him an equal partnership and sole management. The show went out in 1889 for the first time under the title "Barnum and Bailey, The Greatest Show On Earth" and retained that name until the amalgamation with Ringling Brothers "World's Greatest Shows" in 1919.

Bailey took the show to London for a winter season in 1891, and made a fortune, in spite of every obstacle that British showmen and London theatre owners could throw into his way. It is a matter of interest that at the outset of his London troubles he found that he needed \$90,000 in cash at once and he cabled a request for a loan to W. W. Cole, and had the money in a few hours.

Shortly after the return from London, Barnum died and Bailey was soon practically the sole owner of the property. He bought the Forepaugh show after Adam Forepaugh died and before setting out on his five year invasion of England and the Continent (1897-1902) he combined this show with the Sells Brothers to fight the Ringlings who by then had become powers in the circus world, so much so that 2 years after he brought "The Greatest" back to the United States, Bailey was glad to conclude a treaty with them on the division of territory, and to sell them a half-interest in the Forepaugh-Sells show.

Bailey died of Erysipelas early in the Madison Square Garden Engagement in April, 1906. Deprived of its Guiding hand, "The Great-



est" floundered sadly for two seasons and Mrs. Bailey gladly sold the majority of its stock to the Ringlings. This deal was said to have been engineered by John Ringling against the wishes of his brothers, but it was also said that they made back most of the purchase price the first season. Otto Ringling took over the management and retained it until his death in 1911.

The Ringlings continued to operate the show as a separate unit through the season of 1918. In 1919 and from then on they sent out only one show under the name of "Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey, The Greatest Show On Earth" and continued to operate it in the finest brave tradition, in spite of fire, flood, and financial disaster until that blackest day in circus history, Monday, July 16, 1956.

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The sources of this material are:

1. The Circus, From Rome to Ringling, by Earl Chapin May.
2. Old Wagon Show Days, by Gil Robinson.
3. As Told On A Sunday Run, by Harry Bowman.
4. The Ways Of The Circus, by George Conklin.
5. Autobiography of P. T. Barnum.
6. This Way To The Big Show, by Dexter Fellows.

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**1956 Souvenir program 50c; lithos., tickets, route sheets.**

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**BOB TABER**

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John Monnin, No. 610 1062 Memorial Blvd., Sharon, Pa.	Rolla E. Stephens, No. 615 711 Virginia Ave., Joplin, Missouri
Dr. H. C. Hoyt, No. 611 770 42nd St., Sarasota, Florida	Pete Pepke, No. 616 23 South State St., North Warren, Pa.
Margaret Miller, No. 612 119 W. 8th St., Peru, Indiana	

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We have quite a few copies of the Peru (Indiana) Tribune of Tuesday, August 13th with some Convention items in it. If you will drop us a line we will be glad to forward them to Conventioners and any others who might want them.

Missouri and Kansas friends—please note that Ann King daughter of Bob and Agnes King has enrolled at Cottey College, Nevada, Missouri. She would be glad to "talk circus" with anyone in the vicinity.

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**DO YOU KNOW?**

By Bob Taber

In 1890 Barnum & Bailey featured John O'Brien's five horse hurdle race. He rode one in a saddle and with rein directed the others in front at a racing speed jumping hurdles. He was also famous for presenting a 70 horse act.



## Our President Stars Again

Reprinted from Wichita Beacon, June 8, 1956

By JOHN WATSON

(Continued from last issue)

### Variety of Souvenirs

She has postcards issued by the Sells-Floto show in 1911, court-plasters passed out as souvenirs by the original Barnes show in 1898, blotters used by Sells-Floto, King Brothers and the Cristiani show in the early years, puzzle pictures cards put out by the Burr-Robbins Circus in about 1883, a ledger used by the Ringling show in 1906 to list salaries paid roustabouts and receipts given the Ringling show for items purchased when the circus played Wichita in 1917.

Recalling some of the superstitions of circus people when she was on the road, Mrs. Leonard said performers would never permit a humpback trunk to be brought into a dressing room. And whistling in a dressing room was believed to bring bad luck. In those days, too, performers considered it bad luck to wear a yellow costume. But yellow is no longer frowned upon for a wardrobe.

### Circus People Superstitious

When a serious accident occurs on a circus lot, two more always were feared because "accidents always come in a series of three."

"And it usually happened that way too," Mrs. Leonard insisted.

Mrs. Leonard said she never was in any bad storms or train wrecks during her life with the circus.

"Occasionally we had some rather bad windstorms and had to watch the tents," she pointed out, "but we just took storms as a matter of course and let the wind blow."

She will not name a favorite act or performer, either past or present.

"I can walk on any circus lot in the country and always be welcome," she said. "And I want it to remain that way."

Mrs. Leonard added that she has learned to know the circus a lot better since she has become a "sucker,"—a member of the audience—rather than a part of one of the acts.

### Dislikes Firecrackers

For example, she is critical of clowns who use huge firecrackers which explode as a part of routine.

"Children come to the circus to be happy and to laugh, not to be scared to death," she complained.

When a newspaper or magazine comes out with a piece hinting that the circus will in time be a thing of the past, Mrs. Leonard is upset.

"There always will be a circus," she insisted. "The format may change over the years, but the circus will continue to entertain children of all ages for many years to come. I think within the next 10



years, however, that few will be showing in tents. They will be playing auditoriums and stadiums."

And as long as the circus is a part of life in these United States, Mrs. Leonard will be attending performances wherever she can—and meeting old friends.

Even though she has been retired from the sawdust ring since 1938, she still remains in show business. She is cashier for a local theater.

### DO YOU KNOW?

By Bob Taber

That the circuses of days gone by carried large bands. Ned Brill's on the 1911 Barnum & Bailey, 30 men; William Merrick's Forepaugh & Sells, 1901, 32; Sells & Downs, 1902, 28; Ringling Bros., 1901, 27; Carl Clair's with Barnum & Bailey, 1904-05, 32; Gentry Bros., 1911, 24. Liberati directed a band of 50 men on the 1895 Ringling Circus.

Barnum said "As long as there are children there will be circuses."

Barnum show in the 80's always gave a torchlight parade in New York City the Saturday night before the Monday opening.

In 1880-81-82 shows featured cannon acts. Barnum had Zazal; Forepaugh brought out George Loyal; W. C. Coup had the Beautiful Flying Lulu.

Johnny Patterson, the jovial clown and Irish Jester of the 80's was as famous in his time as Dan Rice was at one time. He was on this side of the Atlantic for six years. He toured two years with Cooper & Bailey's Great London Circus, three years with the John B. Doris Inter-Ocean shows and one season with the Sells Bros.

Jerry Mugivan was connected with a show organized in Denver, Colorado, in 1892 as Bond Bros. The owner and manager was Joseph McMahon. His parents were famous equestrians. He was shot in 1898. In 1901 the equipment went out as the Sands & Astley. Later with Bert Bowers he got hold of some of the equipment and they launched in 1904 a circus using the Great Van Amburg title. From this beginning came the American Circus Corporation.

Cooper, Bailey & Co., on March 10, 1880, announced "The Bonanza Baby Worth \$100,000." That was after their elephant Hebe had given birth to the first elephant born in America.

The Billboard for June 24, 1933 listed routes of 16 circuses. In June, 1956 there were 14 listed.

On April 27, 1933 at Jackson, Miss., Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Black, owners of Black's Comedy bears, launched Black's Wild Animal Circus with one ring.

Ted C. Wilson opened Wagner Bros. Circus about the same date at Montgomery, Texas.



## The Circus — Milwaukee

Courtesy of Dr. H. H. Conley

Milwaukee has always been a good town for circuses. Of course it has always been known as a "Ringling Town," as the Greatest Show on Earth has outdrawn other shows.

However, in the fifty years before Ringling first visited Milwaukee, many circus caravans pulled in over the muddy roads to visit Wisconsin's largest city. Remember that when Wisconsin became a state we had only 250,000 people in the state and promising cities like Beloit with 750 people and Janesville with 350 were considered good circus towns.

Doubtless some small shows visited Milwaukee during the early years, but not until July 10 and 11, 1849 did a big show come in. They carried "comin in July" ads in the newspapers during April, May, and June so that no one would attend any other form of entertainment. This show was the **Crane and Co. Great Oriental Circus** and had many famous circus names such as Nixon, Kemp, Gardner, Lee, Lipman and others. Their band wagon was pulled by a ten horse camel team and the entrance to the city was something wonderful to see. The people stayed at the City Hotel on East Water Street and the Menominee on West Water. Large audiences attended both days.

The next year **Raymond & Co.** brought in their extensive menageries starring that great German animal trainer, Herr Driesbach. They played on the lot on Spring Street in the old Fourth ward on July 3 and 4, 1850 and gave three performances on the holiday. Remember this was a menagerie and not a circus.

On September 3 and 4, 1851, **R. Sands & Co.** Hippoferaen Arena came in. Sands was an old circus man who always had a good show. The next year a Wisconsin show **Older and Co. Great United States Circus** with a star studded cast came on July 10, 1852. They had Volante, Mlle. Marietta the equestrienne, Chambers from Welche's circus, W. Cole, the acrobat and contortionist, and H. Buckley who was well known in Delavan. Only the month before on June 17 and 18, **Raymond and Van Amburgh United** came in with their double menagerie. They featured Van Amburgh and Mons. Crawford, the animal trainers, who were well known thruout America and England. With this show were those great elephants, Hannibal and Kaaloo-Alia. They carried a variety of animals and advertised a tented arena 300 x 100 ft. Again business was wonderful with a morning, afternoon and an evening show on Saturday.

In 1853 **P. T. Barnums Grand Colossal Museum and Menagerie** came in on July 30. Remember Barnum was not with this show. The promoters "rented" the name of his New York Museum for these tours. They featured Tom Thumb and had a great menagerie with many species of animals. The route of this show is interesting as this route (or reverse) is the one traveled by all these shows. Leaving Chicago July 25, they were in Wheeling 26, Waukegan 27, Kenosha 28, Racine 29, Milwaukee 30, Waukesha August 1, East Troy



2, Whitewater 3, Janesville 4, Union 5 and Madison August 6th. Can you imagine a team of elephants pulling a tank wagon with a hippopotamus thru the bottomless roads of that era!

On July 8, 1854, Franconis Hippodrome came to Milwaukee. They had been in Madison on July 4th with the largest audience ever seen at a circus up to that time.

On May 21 and 22, 1855, the **Grand Olympic Arena and North American Circus** played in Milwaukee. Here again we see familiar names, Mlle. Marietta, H. Buckley, Sol Lipman, Antonic Family, with Ned Kendall's Band. Oscar W. Hyatt was the agent for this show.

One hundred years ago this summer, Milwaukee had grown up. We had Christy's Minstrels playing at the theatre and an Uncle Tom's Cabin troupe attracting crowds each night. But on July 10 and 11 **Herr-Driesbach and Co. Great Colossal Consolidated Circus and Menagerie**, with the only living giraffe in America showed in Milwaukee.

This ends the era of 100 years ago, but one show came in in 1857 that deserves special mention. **Spalding and Rogers Three Circuses Combined** were in Waukesha on July 13, Milwaukee July 14 and 15, Racine 16, and Kenosha on the 17th, on their way to Chicago. This was a combination of their North American Circus, their Floating Palace Circus from the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and their New Railroad Circus. This is the first show that had traveled by railroad. They also had a forty horse team before the famous Jake Posey was born. The usual circus lot at Spring and Third Street was used, and the featured player was Madam Lake who later married Wild Bill Hickok and was widowed for the second time.

During the next few years the shows came in once or twice a year and we have a procession of great circus names from the period 1860 to 1870. Satterlee, Bell, John Davenport, Dr. James Thayer, the Melvilles, Buckley, Mabie, Weeks and countless others.

Then a new era began, In 1871 **P. T. Barnum's Museum, Menagerie, and Circus** took to the road, and was put on the rails the next year by that great showman, W. C. Coup, who received his early circus training at Delavan, Wisconsin. Naturally he brought the show to the midwest and they came to Milwaukee on October 3 and 4, 1872 and returned every two or three years. Other shows came on during this latter period of the century and the names of Forepaugh, Sells Bros., Main, Wallace, Buffalo Bill and others were well known.

The little wagon show owned by the Ringling Bros. of Baraboo, Wisconsin, started in 1884 and grew so rapidly that it became a railroad show in 1890. On May 22 & 23, 1891, they came to Milwaukee for the first time using their new title of **Ringling Brothers World's Greatest Shows**. This was now a twenty-two car show with a tent the size of our modern football gridiron. They carried one hundred thirty horses and ponies and a full menagerie, with a brilliant circus performance. The growth of this great show is too well known to need repeating. When the Ringling and Barnum shows united in 1919, they came back to Milwaukee in their first year and on August 21, we saw the **Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Combined Shows. The Greatest Show on Earth**. Nearly every year since they



have been welcome visitors either at State Fair Park or at the Lake Front Park.

You have all read sob stories of the closing of the circus and the end of the Big Top since the Big Show closed and went back to Winter Quarters. Remember that the statements made as to "the end of the big top" were made by one man. A hundred other more experienced circus men know that circuses will go on and Milwaukee will be visited each year so that all children aged four or ninety-four can enjoy the world's finest entertainment.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

C. H. S. AUGUST 1, 1956

### Receipts

Cash on Hand Sept. 1, 1955	-----	\$ 842.97	
Dues	-----	645.55	
Subscriptions and single Bandwagons	--	90.64	
Ads	-----	81.00	
Total Receipts	-----		\$1,660.16

### Disbursements

Postage	-----	\$ 162.51	
Roster	-----	60.00	
Postal Permit	-----	10.00	
Bandwagon	-----	334.67	
Convention Expense	-----	210.51	
Flowers	-----	19.18	
Ad in White Tops	-----	15.00	
Bank Charges	-----	3.19	\$ 815.06
Balance August 1, 1956	-----		\$ 845.10



## Menageries and Circuses That Showed Lebanon, Ohio, 1820-1955

1. Exhibition of "Columbus" a male Elephant. 1820. Leb. April 4 to 7. Franklin 8 & 10. 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. 37½c & ½ price.
2. Exhibition of Living Animals. Lion, Leopard, & etc. Share's Tavern. Leb. Sept. 13 & 15, 1823. 9 to 5. 25c & ½ price.
3. Grand Natural Curiosity. A Large & Learned Female Elephant. Share's Tavern, Leb. Feb. 16 to 23. Waynesville 24 & 25. 1824. Exhibition 9 to 4. Good Music. 25c & ½ price.
4. Gregory Washburn & Co's. Menagerie and Aviary. Leb. July 30, 1835. 45 men, 27 carriages & wagons. 78 gray horses. 2 elephants. 1 camel. Waynesville—28, Wilmington—29. Hours 1 to 4. 25c & ½ price.
5. The Associations Celebrated Menagerie & Aviary from their Zoological Institute, Philadelphia. Leb. Aug. 10, 1835. Hours 1 to 4. Price 25c.
6. Mammoth Exhibition under the Management of Noel & Waring from the Zoological Institute of New York. Leb. July 28, 1836. 1 to 4. 25c & ½.
7. Fogg & Stickney's formerly Brown & Co's. Circus. Leb. April 24, 1838. Note: This is the first circus to come to Lebanon.
8. Philadelphia Circus. Raymond Waring & Co., Prop. Aug. 3, 1840. Leb. No females allowed as performers on this circus.
9. Circus & Caravan. June, Titus, Angevine & Co. Proprietors of the Bowery Amphitheater, N.Y. Leb. May 30, 1842. 50c & 25c.
10. National Circus Co. under management of Messrs. Robinson & Foster. Lebanon, May 23, 1842. Centerville—24. Eque. Mgr., S. P. Stickney.
11. Waring & Raymond's Extensive Menagerie & Circus Combined. 2 P.M. Leb. July 20, 1842. Middletown—19. Waynesville—21. Note: In accordance with times prices reduced to 25c.
12. Spaulding's North American Circus. Leb. Aug. 2, 1847. 2 & 7:30 P. M. Xenia—29. Dayton—30. Miamisburg—31. 25c. Note: First night show.
13. Welch & Delevan's Great National Circus. Leb. Aug. 14, 1847. 2½ & 7½ P.M. Eques. director J. J. Nathans. 25c. This ad under the above.
14. Rockwell & Co. N. Y. Monster Circus. Leb. April 27, 1848. 2½ P.M. show only. 25c (no half price).
15. Welch, Delevan & Nathan's National Circus. Leb. July 7, 1848. 2½ & 7½ P.M. Gorgeous chariot made by Stephenson & Co. 27th St. N. Y. Drawn by 30 horses. Cin. 1, 3, 4, 5. Ham. 6. Xenia—8. Day. 10. 25c no ½ price.
16. Van Amburgh & Co's Menagerie. Leb. July 31, 1848. 2 to 4. 25c & ½. Xenia—28. Waynesville—29. 100 dapple grey horses.
17. Spaulding's North American Circus. Leb. Nov. 1, 1848. 2 & 7. 25c. Miamisburg. Oct. 31. Wilmington—Nov. 2.
18. Spaulding & Rogers' North American Circus. Leb. May 22, 1849. 2 & 7. 25c.
19. Welch, Delevan & Nathans Circus. Lebanon. Oct. 11, 1849. Wilmington—10. Sharonville—12. 2½ & 7½ P.M. 25c. No half price.
20. R. Sands & Co's. Hippoferean Arena. Lebanon. Oct. 23, 1850. 2 & 7. 25c.
21. Raymond & Co. and VanAmburgh & Co's. Menageries. Leb. April 18, 1851. 1 P.M. Show. 25c & 15c. 70 men. 120 horses. Morrow. April 17.
22. J. M. June & Co's. American & European Amphitheater. Leb. Sept. 1, 1851.
23. Franconi's Colossal Hippodrome from the city of N.Y. Leb. Oct. 29, 1853. 2 & 7 P.M. 25c. No half price. Programs sold.
24. Rivers & Derious Grecian Arena Circus. Leb. July 13, 1854. Xenia—11. Wilmington—12. 2 & 7 P.M. 25c.
25. Robinson & Eldred. Circus, Menagerie & Hippodrome Combined. Leb. Oct. 25, 1854. 1½ P.M. show only. 50 & 25c. Wilmington—30.



26. Spalding & Rogers' Two Circuses! Consolidating their celebrated Floating Palace Circus & North American Circus! Leb. June 17, 1855. 40 horses driven by one man. Wil. 15. Morrow. 16. Ham. 18.
27. Menagerie & Circus. S. B. Howes, Prop. Two Companies! 2 & 7. 25c & ½. Myers & Madigan's Equestrian Troupe. Leb. Sept. 14, 1855. Living Giraffe.
28. Sand's Nathans & Co's. American Circus & Combined Exhibitions. Leb. Aug. 16, 1856. Boxes—50c. Pit—25c. No ½ price. 2½ & 7½ P.M.
29. G. F. Bailey & Co. successor to June & Turner Circus & Menagerie Combined. Leb. Oct. 29, 1856. 1½ & 7 P.M. One price, 25c.
30. Nixon & Kemp's Great Eastern Circus. Leb. Aug. 17, 1857. The Great Musical Steam Calliope drawn by 40 horses. Clown songbook with 30 woodcuts for sale. 10c. Zenia, 26. Wil. 27. Washington C. H., 28.
31. Mabies Menagerie & Circus. Leb. Sept. 8, 1857. Box, 50c, Pit, 25c & ½. Musical Chariot drawn by 4 elephants. Morrow, Sept. 9.
32. Circus & Menagerie. Mr. Eldred. Home Festival. OPENING DATE. Leb. May 8, 1858. Menagerie open afternoon of 7th. 3 & 8 P.M. 25c only.
33. L. B. Lent's Mammoth National Circus. Leb. May 12, 1858.  
Note: Eldreds & Lent's ad side by side. Bainbridge, 6. Hillsboro, 7. Greenfield, 8. Washington C.H., 10. Wilmington, 11. Milford, 14.
34. VanAmburgh's Zoological & Equestrian Co. Reorganized. Entirely new. Leb. July 23, 1860. 1 & 7 P.M. 50c, 25c, & half price.
35. Robinson & Lakes Great Southern Menagerie & Circus. Leb. Aug. 28, 1860. Waynesville, 29. 1 & 7 P.M. 50c & 25c.
36. Antonio Bros. Great World Circus & Gymnasium. Star show of 1861. Leb. May 30, 1861. Xenia, June 3. Wil. 4. W.C.H. 5. 2 & 7 P.M. 50c & 25c.
37. Robinson & Lakes Great Combined Menagerie & Circus. Leb. April 25, 1862. Pavillion constructed by Mr. Vandivere of Cin. 1 & 7. All for 25c.
38. Mabie's Great Show. Leb. June 6, 1862. 1 & 7. 50c & 25c.  
Note: No papers from May 29, 1862 to January 4, 1866.
39. J. M. French & Co's Grand Oriental Circus & Egyptian Caravan. Lebanon. May 2, 1868. 2 & 7½ P.M. 50c & 25c.
40. Adam Forepaugh's Grand Zoological & Equestrian Aggregation. Lebanon. Oct. 17, 1868. 1 & 7 P.M. 50c & 25c.
41. Yankee Robinson's Grand Consolidated Shows. Lebanon. April 24, 1869. Only female trapeze performer. 1 & 7 P.M. 50c & half price.
42. Hemmings & Cooper's Menagerie & Circus. Leb. May 11, 1871. Wil. 10. Ham. 12. 1 & 7. 50c and half price.
43. Adam Forepaugh's Famous Onithological Museum & Zoological & Equestrian Institute. Leb. Aug. 8, 1871. Fifth tour of the U. S.
44. Sells Bros. Mommonth, Quadruple Alliance. Museum, Menagerie, Caravan, & Circus. Leb. May 7, 1872. Morrow, 8. 1 & 7 P.M. 50c & ½ price.
45. Rosston, Springer & Henderson's Great Mastodum! Five great exhibitions combined in one. Leb. June 25, 1872.
46. Olders Museum, Circus & Menagerie. Take notice, it says. Not a Railroad show. Leb. Sept. 19, 1872. 1 & 7 P.M. 50c & ½ price.
47. The Great Forepaugh Shows. Road show. Thousand men & horses. 50 cages. Leb. Sept. 9, 1873. 1 & 7 P.M. 50c & ½ price.
48. Great European Zoological Association. British Museum, Royal Collossium, Worlds Congress of Wonders & Gigantic Circus. Leb. April 28, 1874.
49. Geo. F. Bailey & Co's. Menagerie & Museum. Leb. June 16, 1874. Signor & Sebastian's Italian Circus. 50c & ½ price.
50. Great Eastern & Southern Menageries. Leb. Nov. 7, 1874.
51. Forepaugh's Great Centennial Show. Leb. Sept. 16, 1876. Band drawn by 20 Arabian horses. 1 & 7 P.M. 50c & ½ price.
52. John Robinson's Great World's Exposition. Leb. April 21, 1877. Aquarium, Animal Conservatory, & Strictly Moral Circus. 55th tour.
53. Robbin's Great American & Royal German Allied Shows. Leb. Aug. 2, 1877. The Combined Double Circus. \$10,000 challenge, best lady riders.



54. VanAmburg & Co's. New Great Golden Menagerie. Leb. Sept. 17, 1877. Frost's Roman Circus & Royal Colossium. 55th tour. Blanchester, 15th. Largest Elephant—Mammoth Boliver. 1 & 7. 50c & ½ price.
55. Miles Orton's New Mastodon Shows & Royal German Menagerie. Leb. May 29, 1882. 1 & 7 P.M. 50c & ½ price.
56. VanAmburg, Frost, Stone & Co's. Great Golden Menagerie. Frost Royal Coliseum, Stones Monster Circus, Crane's Gymnasium, & Aquarium & Oh-Ke-Na-Wak's Commanche Indian Troupe. Leb. Nov. 2, 1882. 1 & 7. 50c—½
57. Stowe & Long's Circus, Menagerie, Wild West & Balloon Shows. Leb. May 10, 1889.
58. Albert M. Wetter's New Model Shows, Circus, Menagerie, & Roman Hippodrome. Leb. Aug. 18, 1893. 1 & 7 P.M. Price reduced to 25c.
59. John Robinson's 10 Big Shows Combined. Leb. Sept. 3, 1894. 70 years of success. 1 & 7 P.M. 60 cages. Prices not listed.
60. Prof. A. L. Tolbert & Co. Phantasmagoria Aerial Trapeze act, Combination & Equestrian Gymnasium. Leb. Fair, Sept. 18-21, 1894.
61. John Robinson & Franklin Bros. Leb. Aug. 7, 1897.
62. John Robinson's 10 Big Shows All United. Leb. July 16, 1901. Carl Hagenbeck's \$40,000 herd of Elephants. 77th year. 40 horses driven by one man.
63. Lillian Hoffman with ½ doz. high bred & carefully trained horses. World greatest trick & fancy rider. Leb. fair Sept. 19-22, 1905.
64. J. H. Sullivan, "Broncho John." Leb. Fair Sept. 18-21, 1906. Famous Western Horseman & his Corps of Expert Horsemen.
65. Sun Bros. Greater Progressive Shows. Leb. May 21, 1909. Lights—Electro-Calcium Generators.
66. Heber Bros. Greater Show. Leb. May 20, 1911. 27th annual tour.
67. Sun Bros. World's Progressive Shows. Leb. Aug. 22, 1914.
68. Howe's Great London Shows. Leb. May 19, 1915.
69. The Circus Deluxe. Sparks World Famous Shows. Leb. Aug. 31, 1916. Had elephant Mary, said to be 3 inches taller than Jumbo and weighing over 5 tons. This is where I came in, the first circus I ever saw.
70. Sun Bros. World Progressive Shows Inc. Leb. Monday, May 7, 1917. "Tang Bill" \$10,000 Champion High School Horse. Free outside exhibition 12:30 P.M. Show 2 & 8.
71. La Tenas 3 big ring circus. "The Show That's Different." Leb. Sat. July 28, 1917. Show 2 & 8, parade at 12. Big byline below says parade 12:30. (WONDERFUL AD).
72. Coop and Lents 3 Ring Circus. Leb. Thur. July 4, 1918. First truck circus to come to Leb. 96 high powered monster auto trucks. Show 2 & 8, parade 10:30. 50c & 25c plus tax.
73. Sparks 3 Ring Circus. Leb. Tue. Sept. 5, 1922. All new except the name and business methods. 2 & 8. 75c & 30c.
74. Golden Bros. 4 Ring Wild Animal Circus. Leb. Wed. Aug. 22, 1923. 1 mile street parade. Show 2 & 8.
75. M. L. Clark & Sons Shows. Leb. Sat. Sept. 6, 1930. Parade 2 & 8. Featuring Mena, largest elephant in captivity.
76. Robbins Circus The old Reliable. All new this year. Leb. Fri. July 10, 1931. 2 & 8. 25c.
77. Lewis Bros. Big 3 Ring Circus. Leb. May 11, 1940. 2 & 8. 40 & 25c.
78. Al G. Kelly & Miller Bros. Circus. (2nd Largest Wild Animal). Leb. Tue. June 27, 1950. 2 & 8. 75c & 42c.
79. Diano Bros. 3 Ring Circus, Trained Wild Animals. Leb. summer 53. No cook house this day, folded the next.

\* \* \*

I was born in Lebanon, Warren Co. Ohio in the year 1909.

This material was gathered from the microfilmed copies of the "Western Star" which can be found in the Warren County Museum, Lebanon, Ohio. The Western Star is the oldest weekly west of the Alleghanies.

Compiled by Harold W. Gorsuch, member of the Warren County Historical Society, and Circus Historical Society.



### CONVENTION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of any convention is only possible by the helpfulness of a great many people, both members and others. We wish to thank the following: Herman Quinius for banquet programs, F. C. Fisher and family for their hospitality, the Peru Tribune and Bob Mathes for their publicity and pictures, Fred and Annette Thompson for peaches, Mrs. William West for her time and effort at the Museum and Court House, the Peru Jaycees for everything, including the Key to the City and the Pink Elephant award, Bill Lerche, Don Smith, John Arter and Paul Rusk for movies; the management of the Hotel Bearss, and the management of the Elks Club, Paul Kelley for his many courtesies. We wish to acknowledge messages from John Boyle, Ivan Meyers, "Doc" Hughes, Wally Ahlberg, "Mitch" White, Bill Montague, Bill Kasiska, Bill Green, and a great many others.

### PRESENT AT CONVENTION BANQUET

Mrs. William West, Julian Jiminez, Francis Graham, Eddie Jackson, H. S. Hoyt, Ed Binner, Dr. and Mrs. Bateman, Lloyd Bender, Betty Monney, Bob, Agnes and Ann King, Bette Leonard, Fred and Annette Thompson, H. L. DeGolyer, Howard Gusler, Eric Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Van Epps, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mathes, Ray Markle, Dr. H. Chester Hoyt and Mrs. Hoyt, John Monnin, Bill Lerche, Rev. Arthur Isenberg, Paul and Evelyn Van Pool, Frank and Anna Goldquist, J. Paul and Mrs. Rusk, Raymond G. White, Floyd McClintock, Norman Senhauser, Henry Bartels, Myron Gandee, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Simpson, Fred Pfening, Jr., John Vogelsang, Mr. and Mrs. James Cotter and daughter, Orlo Rahn, Gene Weeks, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Soper, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. O. Miller, Harold Gorsuch, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Meeker, Walter Rauth and son Bill, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Kelly, Jr., Mrs. Holman, Dr. H. H. Conley, Steve Seipp, Herman and Mary Linden, Otto Schieman, Jack Sweetman, Johnnie Walker, Don and Martha Smith, Jules Jacot, Ronnie Bacon, Henry Varner, and Harry Shell.